

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Scott J. Tuman, David L. Seidel, and Leon Levitt

Serial No.:

Filed: March 29, 2001

For: WEB HAVING DISCRETE STEM REGIONS

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

On Page 1, insert before the first line the following paragraph:

"Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/257,447, filed on February 25, 1999."

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) A web of material having at least two major sides, the web comprising:
a plurality of discrete regions selected from patches and cross-web stripes, on at least a first major side of the web; and
a plurality of stems extending from said discrete regions;
wherein:
 - i) the web is made of a material selected from woven, nonwoven, and knit web material; paper; and microporous membranes; and
 - ii) the plurality of stems are fused to at least the first major side of the web by being melt entangled with the web.

6. (amended) A web of material having at least two major sides, the web comprising:
a plurality of discrete regions on at least a first major side of the web; and
a plurality of stems extending from said discrete regions;
wherein:

- i) the web comprises an elastic material selected from the group consisting of woven, nonwoven and knit web materials; microporous membranes; and continuous elastomeric polymer films; and
- ii) the plurality of stems are fused to the web.

9. (amended) The web according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of the stems are tilted in the same direction.

A version marked up to show changes made to the claim(s) relative to the previous version of the claim(s) is attached.

REMARKS

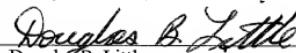
Claims 1, 6, and 9 have been amended. Claims 11-20 have been cancelled. Claims 1-10 are pending.

Support for the newly added claims may be found in the originally filed application in at least the following places:

Amended Claim(s)	Support
1 and 6	Page 2, line 27 – page 3, line 5, page 5, lines 23-31, page 11, lines 1-5, Examples 1-13.
9	Page 2, lines 9-13, page 7, lines 1-21, page 9, line 29 – page 10, line 2, page 13, lines 1-17, page 15, lines 6-16.

It is respectfully requested that the above amendments be entered and that the application be examined, and a Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Douglas B. Little

Registration Number 28,439	Telephone Number 651-733-1501
Date March 30, 2001	
Office of Intellectual Property Counsel 3M Innovative Properties Company P.O. Box 33427 St. Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 Facsimile: (651) 736-3833	

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

1. (amended) A web of material having at least two major sides, the web comprising:
a plurality of discrete regions selected from patches and cross-web stripes, on at least
a first major side of the web; and
a plurality of stems extending from [each] said discrete [region] regions;
wherein:
i) the web is made of a material selected from woven, nonwoven, and knit web
material; paper; and microporous membranes; and
ii) the plurality of stems are fused [and formed] to at least the first major side of the
web by being melt entangled with the web.

100030 15923960

6. (amended) [The web according to claim 1,]A web of material having at least two major
sides, the web comprising:
a plurality of discrete regions on at least a first major side of the web; and
a plurality of stems extending from said discrete regions;
wherein:
i) the web comprises an elastic material selected from the group consisting of woven,
nonwoven and knit web materials; microporous membranes; and continuous elastomeric
polymer films; and
ii) the plurality of stems are fused to the web.

9. (amended) The web according to claim 1, wherein [one or more] a plurality of the stems
are tilted in the same direction [is shaped to provide directional hooking capability].